

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



*Graduation at IYC Warrenville in June 2024.*

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*Youth at IYC Pere Marquette*

# LETTER FROM ACTING DIRECTOR ROBERT VICKERY



Dear Colleagues and Partners,

As 2024 comes to a close and we look forward to a new year, I appreciate the opportunity to submit the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's Annual Report. While there were plenty of challenges in 2024, we also have many successes and accomplishments that are worthy of celebration. I hope this report will illuminate both.

In early 2024, IDJJ celebrated the grand opening of the Phoenix Emerging Adult Career & Education Center (PEACE) Center at St. Charles. The PEACE Center is exclusively

serving the needs of high school graduates, with programming tailored to the unique needs of 18 to 21-year-olds. Additionally, IDJJ's legislation allowing specified young adults in the custody of the Department of Corrections to be transferred to IDJJ for high school educational services was passed and signed into law last spring. This allowed us to begin to make plans to repurpose our Harrisburg Youth Center to serve these individuals in mid to late 2025.

Tremendous progress was made this year toward opening the new Monarch Youth Center in Lincoln. Construction is moving along according to schedule. Throughout the summer and fall, IDJJ began to recruit staff for the new youth center. This new trauma-informed campus will allow youth from central Illinois to be housed closer to their families and communities.

A major challenge of 2024 was the significant fire at the Warrenville campus over the summer. This event necessitated the relocation of youth and staff and presented a number of challenges, but I am so encouraged by the dedication and resourcefulness shown by IDJJ staff and the resiliency of youth.

Another accomplishment worth noting in 2024 is the buildout of IDJJ's Community Services Division. I am especially proud of the work we are doing to establish a framework for survivor supports and services.

I hope you will take the time to carefully read through the following pages, noting the significance of the Department's work and the many individuals inside and outside the agency that contribute to that work.

Sincerely,  
Robert Vickery  
Acting Director



# ABOUT IDJJ

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) houses and provides services to youth committed to the Department's custody and assists them in transitioning back into the community. IDJJ does not serve youth who are in temporary detention awaiting adjudication, as those are managed at the county level through [Juvenile Detention Centers](#).

Formerly part of the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC), IDJJ was created by statute in 2006 as an independent agency with the understanding that youth are physically, emotionally, and cognitively different from adults and should be treated in a developmentally appropriate manner. IDJJ provides comprehensive rehabilitative services to youth who are committed to the custody of IDJJ, and upon release, in transitioning young people back into the community through Aftercare.

Fiscal Year 2024 statistics:

- Average age of youth in IDJJ facilities: 17.5 years
- Average age of youth under Aftercare supervision in the community: 18.0 years.
- The average length of stay for youth IDJJ custody: 5.8 months

At the end of November 2024, 188 youth were in IDJJ secure custody and 264 youth were being monitored and supported on Aftercare in communities throughout the state.


## POPULATION

IDJJ serves and houses youth who are committed to state custody through juvenile court proceedings, and also houses a smaller number of individuals who are convicted as adults in criminal court who are also under age 18 when sentenced to DOC. A young person may be committed to IDJJ under the Illinois Juvenile Court Act if they are at least 13 years of age and under 20 years of age if adjudicated for a felony offense or first degree murder. Most youth are committed to IDJJ for an indeterminate sentence until the age of 21, which means that they do not have a required minimum sentence to complete, rather release is contingent on program completion and established reentry plans. Since the early 2000s, there has been a national downward trend in juvenile justice system populations. IDJJ's population has declined similarly, with more significant decreases in recent years due to a focused statewide effort to reduce the use of secure confinement for youth. **From a peak of 2174 youth in 1999, the daily number of youth in custody has decreased by over 90%.**



# TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

In partnership with Lt. Governor Stratton's **Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative (JEO)**, IDJJ utilized decades of evidence from across the country, and within its own system, to create a plan with the goal of achieving meaningful transformation, better youth outcomes, and increased community safety. **The 21st Century Illinois Transformation Plan** launched in July 2020, and IDJJ has worked diligently to fulfill its commitment to reduce the harm of incarceration by divesting from the adult prison model, creating a restorative close-to-home model, and building a continuum of care in the community. One of the key initiatives of the Transformation Plan is to invest significantly in intervention and therapeutic services for justice-involved youth. See the chart below for the latest details on Transformation progress.

 <h2>21st Century Transformation</h2>			
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT	FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	EMERGING ADULTS	FACILITY CULTURE
<b>ADDED PARTNERS</b> DJJ has added more than 20 community partners since 2022.	<b>FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL</b> Monthly virtual meetings offer support and voice to caregivers of DJJ youth.	<b>FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS</b> DJJ has invested time, effort, and training to tailor emerging adult programs to the developmental needs of this age group.	<b>INCREASED FOCUS ON STAFF WELLNESS</b> For the first time, 2025 budget allocates over \$30k in funding to host wellness events and to provide services to staff.
<b>ADDED FUNDING</b> DJJ has increased contracts with community partners more than \$5 million since 2021.	<b>FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER</b> DJJ now has a full time staff member dedicated to engaging families in the community.	<b>EMERGING ADULT VOICES</b> DJJ has offered Director's Office internships to emerging adults at DJJ. Internship work includes asking emerging adults to share information & ideas for improving programs and practices at DJJ.	<b>CULTURAL RESPONSIVITY</b> DJJ has increased the quality and frequency of cultural responsivity training for staff & increased programs & activities around cultural celebrations such as Black History Month.
<b>ADDED MENTORING PROGRAMS</b> DJJ has expanded mentoring services through Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP), and DHS Office of Firearm Violence Prevention.	<b>INCREASED FAMILY VISITS &amp; EVENTS</b> Community partners regularly provide transportation for families to visit their kids and participate in family engagement events.	<b>PEACE CENTER</b> IYC St. Charles became the PEACE Center, exclusively serving emerging adults with a focus on life skills and career readiness. A plethora of new programs are now available, & DJJ youth interns contributed to program planning. Currently, 7-8 career focused certifications are available.	<b>TRAUMA-INFORMED FOCUS</b> DJJ has updated many practices to reflect a trauma informed approach for both youth and staff. Examples include changes to staff training, search & restraint practices, and the design of the new Monarch Youth Center in Lincoln.
<b>EXPANDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES</b> DJJ's Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) helps stabilize youth in the community through intensive multi-weekly treatment sessions. Focus is on safety, crisis management, and life skills to support youth's transition into adulthood.	<b>RESTORATIVE INTERVENTIONS, SUPPORTS, SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT (RISSE)</b> DJJ now has a full time staff member dedicated to survivor services. Services are provided to youth and families such as those impacted by gun violence.	<b>LEGISLATION</b> Senate Bill 426 recently passed, enabling DJJ to serve emerging adults ages 18-22 who are currently in an IDOC facility and in need of educational services. DJJ is piloting at 2 DOC facilities. IYC Harrisburg will be repurposed to exclusively serve this population as well.	<b>TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION (TBRI)</b> Enhancing DJJ focus on trauma informed care, TBRI centers staff as caregivers rather than correctional professionals. Multiple DJJ staff are now certified TBRI trainers & TBRI is being introduced at 3 northern region facilities.

Nov. 2024

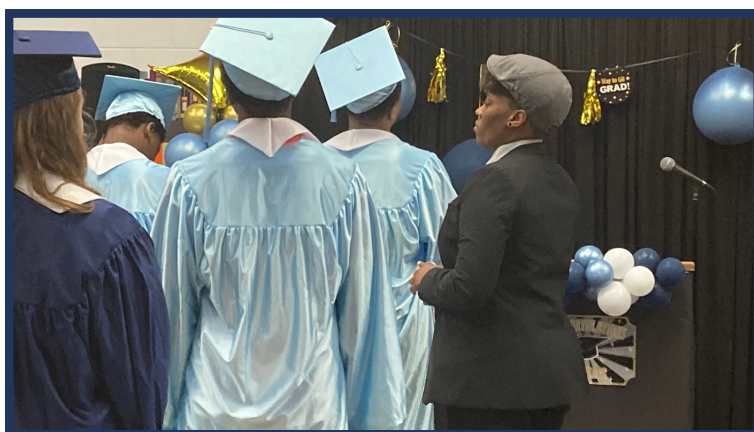
# MISSION: BUILD YOUTH SKILLS

## School District #428

School District #428 exists to enhance the quality and scope of education for IDJJ youth in Illinois youth centers. Youth are able to work toward and complete the requirements for high school graduation, and also have various Career & Technical Education opportunities. For youth who have completed high school graduation requirements, higher education courses and trade programs are available through partnerships with colleges and community partners. In 2024, SD 428 began a pilot to also serve young adults ages 18-22 in IDOC custody who qualify for educational services and want to earn a high school diploma.



School District #428	Completed 2023-24 school year
High School	41
GED	10
8th grade	14



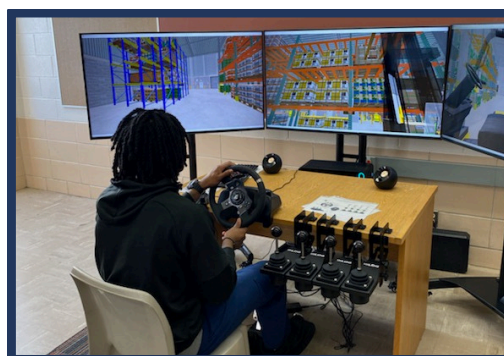
## Career & Technical Education (CTE)

In 2024, IDJJ expanded CTE offerings, particularly at the PEACE Center, which serves high school graduates. IDJJ celebrated several young adults who completed personal training certifications in 2024, a new program available from Project Flex of NIU's Department of Kinesiology.

Other highlighted courses available to youth in IDJJ care:

- **Career Exploration course**-72 youth enrolled in Dec. 2024
- **Financial Literacy course**- 31 youth enrolled in Dec. 2024
- **Driver's Education**

Want to know more about CTE at IDJJ? Check out the CTE page of the IDJJ website!



Youth working toward forklift operation certification through simulator training.

*IDJJ's mission is to build youth skills and strengthen families to promote community safety and positive youth outcomes.*

# MISSION: BUILD YOUTH SKILLS

## Afterschool Programs

IDJJ offers afterschool programming at several youth centers that helps to build youth skills outside of regular school hours. These enrichment programs are based on the qualifications of available staff as well as the interests and requests of students. Some 2024 afterschool programs are listed on the right.

## Higher Education

IDJJ has partnerships with various colleges and universities throughout Illinois. Youth who have completed high school are encouraged to enroll in higher education courses that fulfill general education requirements for most associates or bachelors degree programs or vocational programs at local colleges. In December of 2024, 67 youth were enrolled in post secondary education.

IDJJ has partnerships with multiple colleges and universities throughout Illinois. Student enrollment in many online courses while in secure custody can be continued upon release.

Afterschool Programs
ARTiculating: A SEL approach through the arts
Music Production & Recording
Life Skills
Creative Arts
Analytical & Reasoning Skills
Expressing Identity Through Poetry-Writing and Free-Writes
Science Club
Paint Through Your Pain
Statistics in the NBA
Weight Training



Youth visit to Northern Illinois University

## IDJJ Higher Ed. Partnerships

- City Colleges of Chicago
- Elgin Community College
- Lakeland College
- Lewis & Clark Community College
- Northern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Principia College
- University of Chicago

*IDJJ's mission is to build youth skills and strengthen families to promote community safety and positive youth outcomes.*



# MISSION: STRENGTHEN FAMILIES & PROMOTE COMMUNITY SAFETY

## Community Services Division

IDJJ understands that the mission of “building youth skills and strengthening families” is best achieved in the youth’s community, relying upon a comprehensive array of services and supports delivered by a team comprised of IDJJ staff, community partners, and the family’s natural supports. Below is an overview of IDJJ’s newly formed Community Services Division.

MOBILE INTAKE	FAMILY ENGAGEMENT	RESTORATIVE SERVICES
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b> IDJJ staff meets with and assesses youth who have been committed to IDJJ custody while they are still in county juvenile detention centers in advance of their transfer to IDJJ.	<b>WHAT IS IT?</b> IDJJ fosters relationships with families, encouraging them to participate in decisions on their child’s treatment, and in development of agency policies, programs, and practices. A holistic approach addresses broader family needs, contributing to youth success at home and in the community.	<b>WHAT IS IT?</b> IDJJ provides services to youth and families who are survivors and utilizes restorative approaches for youth to engage with survivors, when appropriate.
<b>HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?</b> An IDJJ multi-disciplinary team obtains information from the committing court, the youth, the youth’s family, staff, etc. and completes comprehensive risk and needs assessments.	<b>HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?</b> IDJJ has a full time staff member dedicated to engaging families and providing assessments, interventions, and referrals to families who need behavioral health services. Aftercare Specialists also engage families in case planning and goal setting.	<b>HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?</b> IDJJ works with community partners to coordinate access to restorative justice resources, survivor supports, referrals for state reimbursed survivor services, and mental health referrals.
<b>WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?</b> Gathering critical information and completing assessments before a youth transitions to IDJJ allows them to more quickly have access to vital services and programs needed for rehabilitation.	<b>WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?</b> Family relationships and other supportive relationships have tremendous impact on youth in the juvenile justice system and are a key component to long-term youth rehabilitation.	<b>WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?</b> Survivors and perpetrators of crimes can both benefit greatly from the services and interventions that promote healing from the impacts of crime and violence.

## AFTERCARE

**WHAT IS IT?** Aftercare is a youth-focused intervention of rehabilitation and therapeutic services that support quality community supervision for all youth committed to IDJJ.

**HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?** Aftercare Specialists work with youth, family and community partners to assist youth in successfully transitioning from IDJJ facilities back to their communities. The goal is a continuum of service for the youth and identification of wrap around services like substance abuse and mental health treatment and services; education and vocational programs; workforce development and job training; mentoring; and anger management counseling.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?** Aftercare provides comprehensive and individualized services to youth committed to IDJJ in order for them to successfully reintegrate back into their communities and reduce recidivism.

# MISSION: STRENGTHEN FAMILIES & PROMOTE COMMUNITY SAFETY

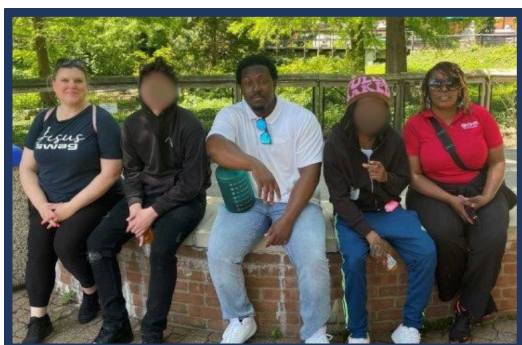
## More About Aftercare

IDJJ's **Aftercare program**, which is part of the Community Services Division, provides vital case management, support, and supervision as youth transition back into their communities. Aftercare Specialists receive training to work with youth, family and community partners to help develop a continuum of service.

The primary goal of Aftercare is to provide comprehensive and individualized services to youth committed to IDJJ in order for them to successfully reintegrate back into their communities and reduce recidivism.



*Youth and staff basketball at an IDJJ day reporting center.*



*Aftercare zoo trip*

The Aftercare model creates a youth-focused intervention of rehabilitation and therapeutic services. These services may include the identification of substance abuse and mental health treatment and services, education and vocational programs, workforce development and job training, mentoring, and anger management counseling.

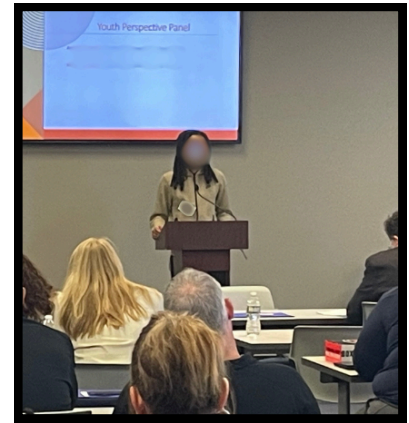
## 2023-2024 Highlights

- 84 youth enrolled in high school and/or earning GED or high school diploma
- 25 youth enrolled in higher education or vocational certification programs
- 95 youth employed upon discharge from Aftercare

*IDJJ's mission is to build youth skills and strengthen families to promote community safety and positive youth outcomes.*

# MISSION: POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES

Positive outcomes for youth in both the short term and long term are an important part of the mission of IDJJ. Substance use treatment programs, individualized mental and behavioral health treatment, family therapy, educational services, and recreational programs are all vital components of accomplishing positive outcomes for youth in the custody of IDJJ. Below are a few of the examples of IDJJ's expanded efforts in 2024.



*Youth speaking at juvenile justice professionals event.*

In 2024, IDJJ's Community Services Division began participating in Summits of Hope, attending six events throughout the state. Summit of Hope is a community expo, bringing together local service providers to create a "one-stop" environment for justice-involved youth and their families to obtain assistance and connect to resources needed for positive youth outcomes. The mission of the Summit of Hope is to guide and assist justice-involved youth with available services to better ensure successful reintegration into the community and reduce recidivism.

## Summits of Hope



## Newly launched Day Reporting Centers

IDJJ's new partnership with GEO Reentry Services has enhanced IDJJ's services to youth and families in central Illinois. Two new day reporting centers in Decatur and Peoria give youth and families access to a multitude of wrap around services, case management, mentorship, employment counseling, and more.

*IDJJ's mission is to build youth skills and strengthen families to promote community safety and positive youth outcomes.*



# MISSION: POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES

Young adults from the PEACE Center participated in a panel at the July 2024 Juvenile Justice Leadership Council Meeting.

Youth at IYC Chicago participated in a trial advocacy and skills workshop with Northwestern Law School.

A young adult at IYC Chicago was chosen as student of the month by Curt's Café.

A youth at IYC Warrenville participating in programming with a community partner won honorable mention in the annual Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Competition.

Youth at IYC Warrenville, along with their families, participated in a Women's History Month event and celebration.

Youth at IYC Pere Marquette spent a day at Pere Marquette State Park learning about fishing, hiking, and camping.

Youth at IYC Harrisburg now benefit from NxtGen programming upon release to assist with trauma, decision-making, and social responsibility.

# NOTEWORTHY 2024

School District #428 CTE teacher Beverly Singleton received an award for meritorious service from the Illinois State Board of Education.



Acting Director Vickery attended the Juvenile Justice Leadership Network gathering at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.



Jakki Alexander, Superintendent of IYC Warrenville, was selected to the 2024 Governor's Office Academy of Leadership.



IYC Warrenville held a family event to celebrate Women's History Month.



IYC Chicago honored faithful volunteers at a volunteer appreciation celebration.



IDJJ welcomed several new members to the advisory board in 2024, including professors from University of Chicago Law School, Northern Illinois University, and Lewis & Clark Community College.

IYC Chicago hosted a group of Cook County public defenders for a Q & A, tour, and youth panel.

Jaime Vasquez represented IDJJ at Latino Unity Day, addressing college students on the topic of Latinx representation in state government.

IDJJ Chief of Performance & Innovation John Albright presented information to the Juvenile Justice Initiative.

The PEACE Center at St. Charles and IYC Warrenville hosted groups of judges from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Court for tours, Q&A, and youth panels.

IDJJ Acting Director Vickery presented at the national conference of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

# DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS 2024

## AVERAGE AGE FISCAL YEAR 2024:

**17.5 YEARS**  
FACILITIES

**18 YEARS**  
AFTERCARE

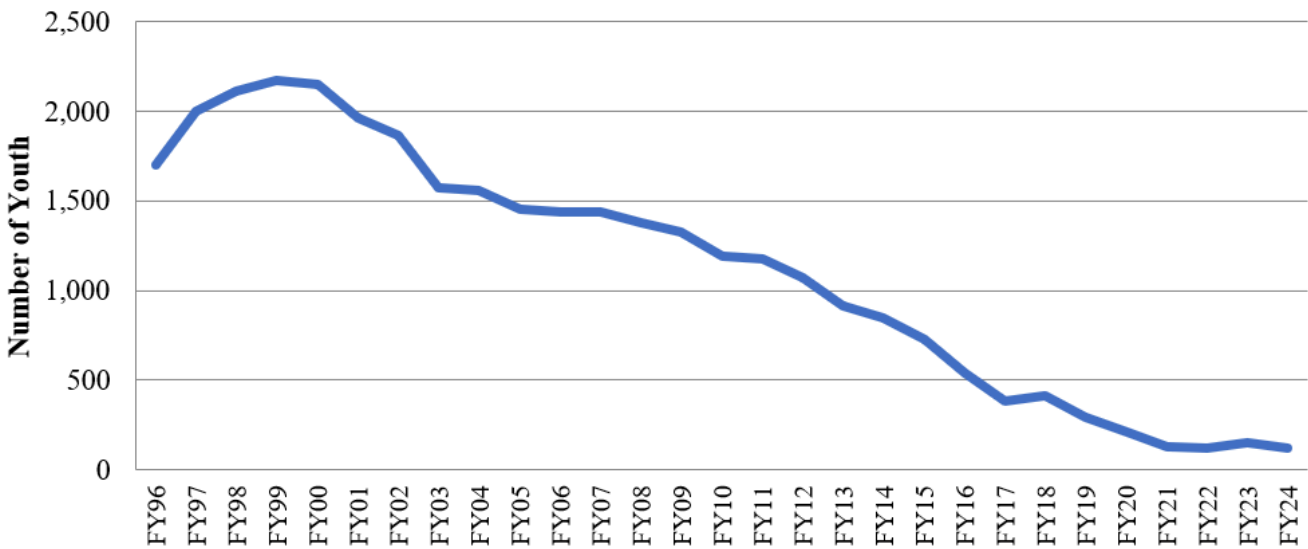
## POPULATION AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 2024 :

**189 YOUTH**  
FACILITIES

**276 YOUTH**  
AFTERCARE

## AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION FISCAL YEAR 2024:

Figure 1: Average Daily Population



**169.6**  
YOUTH IN IDJJ  
FACILITIES

**37.3**  
CHI

**56**  
HRB

**12.3**  
PM

**40**  
PEACE

**24.1**  
WRV

CHI=CHICAGO, HRB=HARRISBURG, PM=PERE MARQUETTE, STC=ST. CHARLES, WRV=WARRENVILLE



# DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS 2024

SEX*	FACILITIES #	FACILITIES %	AFTERCARE #	AFTERCARE %
MALE	167	95.40%	276	95.5%
FEMALE	8	4.6%	13	4.5%

AGE*	FACILITIES #	FACILITIES %	AFTERCARE #	AFTERCARE %
16 & UNDER	62	35.4%	78	27.1%
17-20	110	62.9%	203	70.5%
20.5 & OVER	3	1.7%	7	2.4%
AVERAGE AGE	17.5		18.0	

RACE/ ETHNICITY*	FACILITIES #	FACILITIES %	AFTERCARE #	AFTERCARE %
BLACK	118	67.5	206	71.3%
WHITE	27	15.4	58	20.1%
HISPANIC	21	12.0	17	5.9%
MULTI-RACIAL	8	4.6%	8	2.8%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	1	0.6%	0	0%

\*AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2024

# DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS 2024

COMMITTING COUNTIES*	FACILITIES #	FACILITIES %	AFTERCARE #	AFTERCARE %
COOK	53	30.3%	76	26.3%
COLLAR COUNTIES	11	6.3%	18	6.4%
METRO-EAST	15	8.6%	12	4.2%
CENTRAL	58	33.1%	103	35.6%
SOUTHERN	12	6.9%	17	5.9%
NORTHERN	26	14.9%	47	16%
OUT OF STATE	0	0%	16	5.5%

\*COMMITTING COUNTIES: COOK = COOK; COLLAR COUNTIES = DUPAGE, KANE, LAKE, MCHENRY, WILL; METRO EAST COUNTIES = MADISON, ST. CLAIR; CENTRAL IL COUNTIES = ADAMS, BOND, BROWN, CALHOUN, CASS, CHAMPAIGN, CHRISTIAN, CLARK, COLES, CRAWFORD, CUMBERLAND, DEWITT, DOUGLAS, EDGAR, EFFINGHAM, FAYETTE, FORD, FULTON, GREENE, HANCOCK, HENDERSON, IROQUOIS, JASPER, JERSEY, KNOX, LIVINGSTON, LOGAN, MCDONOUGH, MCLEAN, MACON, MACOUPIN, MARSHALL, MASON, MENARD, MONTGOMERY, MORGAN, MOULTRIE, PEORIA, PIATT, PIKE, SANGAMON, SCHUYLER, SCOTT, SHELBY, STARK, TAZEWEILL, VERMILLION WARREN, WOODFORD; SOUTH IL COUNTIES = ALEXANDER, CLAY, CLINTON, EDWARDS, FRANKLIN, GALLATIN, HAMILTON, HARDIN, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, LAWRENCE, MARION, MASSAC, MONROE, PERRY, POPE, PULASKI, RANDOLPH, RICHLAND, SALINE, UNION, WABASH, WASHINGTON, WAYNE, WHITE, WILLIAMSON; NORTH, IL COUNTIES = BOONE, BUREAU, CARROLL, DEKALB, GRUNDY, HENRY, JO-DAVIESS, KANKAKEE, KENDALL, LASALLE, LEE, MERCER, OGLE, PUTNAM, ROCK ISLAND, STEPHENSON, WHITESIDE, WINNEBAGO; OTHER = OUT OF STATE

\*AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2024

# DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS 2024

PREFIX	FACILITIES #	FACILITIES %	AFTERCARE #	AFTERCARE %
COURT EVALUATION	3	1.7%	0	0.4%
DELINQUENT	75	42.9%	244	84.4%
EXTENDED JURISDICTION	7	4.0%	12	4.2%
ADULT CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCE	60	34.3%	3	1.0%
FIRST DEGREE MURDER	11	6.3%	2	0.7%
VIOLENT JUVENILE	17	9.7%	12	4.2%
HABITUAL JUVENILE	2	1.1%	0	0%
FROM OTHER STATE	0	0%	16	5.5%

OFFENSE CLASS	FACILITIES #	FACILITIES %	AFTERCARE #	AFTERCARE %
MURDER	23	13.1%	3	1.0%
CLASS X FELONY	54	30.9%	66	22.8%
CLASS 1 FELONY	42	24.0%	66	22.8%
CLASS 2 FELONY	37	21.1%	104	36.0%
CLASS 3 FELONY	13	7.4%	15	5.2%
CLASS 4 FELONY	6	3.4%	19	6.6%

\*AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2024



# DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS 2024

## RECIDIVISM RATE

**FISCAL YEAR 2021 EXITS- 31.7%**

**Fiscal Year 2020 exits- 29.8%**

**Fiscal Year 2019 exits- 35.7%**

**Fiscal Year 2018 exits- 36.9%**

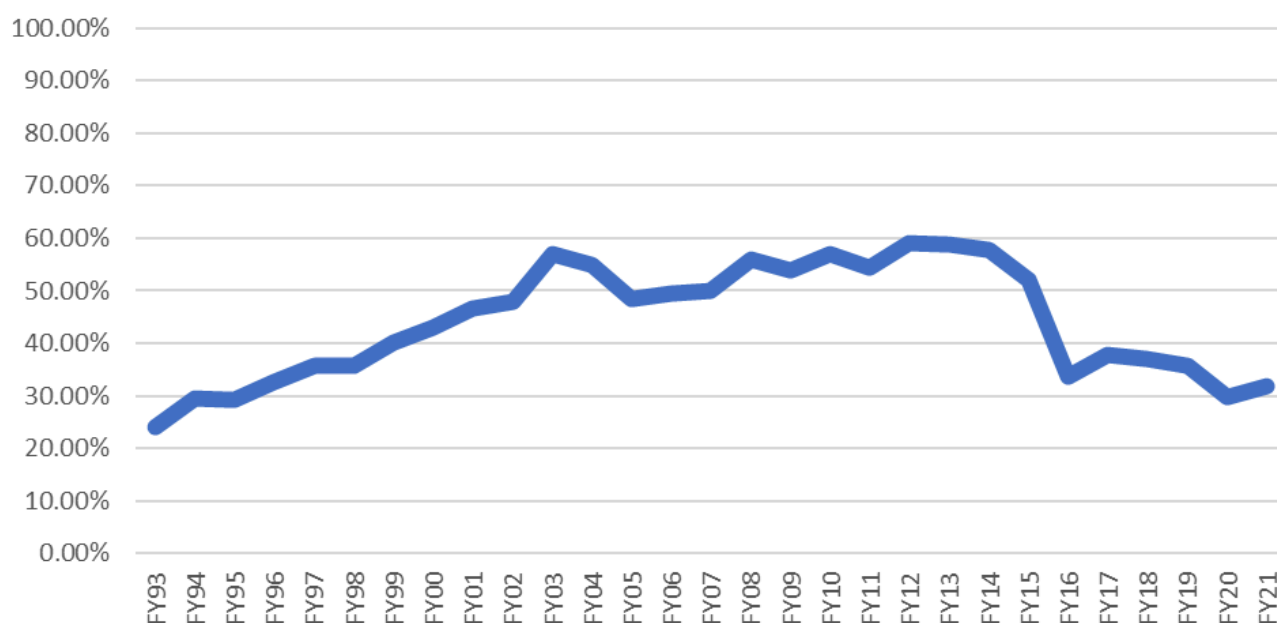
**Fiscal Year 2017 exits- 37.7%**

**Fiscal Year 2016 exits- 33.7%**

**Fiscal Year 2015 exits- 52.1%**

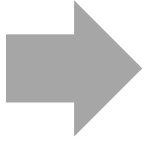
The Fiscal Year 2024 recidivism rate is calculated from all youth who were released from an IDJJ facility in FY 2021. It measures the percent of youth returning to an IDJJ facility within 3 years of release.

Recidivism Rate: 3 Year Return to Facility



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2024

Recent legislation that impacts the work of IDJJ is highlighted below. Gray arrows indicate legislation that was initiated by IDJJ.

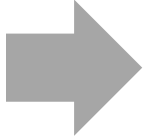


**Bill Number:** SB0426

**Description:** This law enables DJJ to partner with the Department of Corrections to establish an emerging adult education program for persons aged 18-22 who are eligible to receive their high school diploma. Additionally, in this program IDOC youth may be transferred to IDJJ facilities to receive holistic services, including education and vocational training.

**Bill Number:** HB5431

**Description:** This law prohibits the use of security restraints in correction settings on a committed person who is pregnant or in postpartum recovery.



**Bill Number:** \*[SB3615](#)

**Description:** This law removes administrative barriers around what types of accounts funds can be held for youths who earn money while in the department.

**Bill Number:** SB3463

**Description:** This law requires that a date for an automatic expungement order be scheduled by the Juvenile Court judge on the date that the court orders the minor be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Bill Number:** HB4623

**Description:** This bill amends several Illinois laws to address issues related to sexually explicit digital images and depictions. It also amends the Criminal Code of 2012 to define the new offenses of "obscene depiction of a purported child" and "non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions", and provides criminal penalties for these offenses.

# CONSENT DECREE PROGRESS 2024

## HISTORY

In 2012, a lawsuit was filed alleging that certain IDJJ conditions and services violated the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Specifically, the complaint addressed various aspects of IDJJ's mental health services, general and special education services, and other practices affecting the general safety and welfare of the youth in IDJJ custody.

To address the allegations of the lawsuit, the court approved a consent decree that required IDJJ to improve conditions and services. A consent decree is an agreement between parties of a case that establishes a detailed plan of action that is enforceable by the court. In the case of the RJ Consent Decree, a Remedial Plan was created which required sustainable reforms to the Department's policies, practices, and services to youth. The court also appointed independent experts to monitor IDJJ's efforts to comply with the requirements of the Remedial Plan. Each year, the monitors file reports with their compliance findings and recommendations.

In 2022, IDJJ achieved substantial compliance in all areas of the remedial plans for mental health and general welfare and safety, monitoring only continued for education-related areas.. In 2023, IDJJ continued to make progress on the remedial plan for education by addressing staffing shortages and setting up and providing the compensatory education services that were ordered in 2022.

In 2024, compensatory educational services were expanded to include tutoring for high school graduates at multiple facilities. High school graduates who are enrolled in financial literacy, career exploration, or construction courses have access to Literary Volunteers of Illinois (LVI) tutors. Additionally, qualified high school students at IYC Chicago have access to tutors for multiple subjects four days per week. IDJJ looks forward to fully meeting all consent decree requirements needed for exit in the near future.



# STAFFING UPDATE 2024

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One of IDJJ's top priorities continues to be onboarding the necessary personnel to fully separate from the Shared Services Model. Developing the infrastructure to function as a stand-alone agency is necessary to help IDJJ successfully exit consent decree litigation and ensure a healthy and supportive workplace for staff and youth in our care. Establishing a fully functioning, independent HR team is absolutely critical at a time when juvenile justice and child services agencies across the country face a staffing crisis.

IDJJ staff continues to enhance recruitment strategies, specifically to target hard-to-fill roles, like security and education, to include an improved Juvenile Justice Specialist Intern screening process, Handshake/IASA job bank online presence, and increased career fair participation. Additionally, the HR team will continue its' focus on streamlining archaic processes, optimizing the use of technology, and enhancing employee engagement and retention.

In 2024, IDJJ added several more positions to the HR team to expedite the hiring and onboarding process and to serve staff more effectively with leaves and benefits information.

Like our sister agencies in Illinois and around the country, IDJJ expects staff shortages to continue to be a challenge in 2025 and beyond. However, a strong HR Department, and strong agency leadership make us much better equipped to respond to and plan for the changing workforce landscape.

# STAFF TRAINING UPDATE- 2024

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice training department focuses on onboarding training for new employees, annual training for existing employees, and specialty trainings. Onboarding training for new employees occurs quarterly in the form of a week-long training for new non-security staff and a six-week academy for all new juvenile justice specialists. This year IDJJ graduated 64 Juvenile Justice Specialist interns, with 22 interns in the final class of the year.



***September 2024 Juvenile Justice Specialist Intern Academy Graduates***

Through annual training IDJJ provides all requisite trainings, but it also offers opportunities to introduce new topics, such as training on family engagement and restorative justice. Annual training topics, which are skill-focused, are updated yearly with new trainings added to keep the training relevant and the staff engaged. The quality of annual training has also resulted in an exemption from the state's required online cultural competency and LGBTQIA+ training, instead allowing the Department to utilize its own cultural responsiveness and LGBTQI trainings to meet the requirement. Training remains an active partner in the Department's efforts toward becoming trauma-informed, including the implementation of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). Comprehensive and ongoing training at all levels of IDJJ is vital to the success of staff and youth.

# BUDGET 2024

Organization	Fund Name	Appropriation Name	Appropriation	Expenditure
General Office	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$3,899,000.00	\$3,878,831.04
General Office	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$349,700.00	\$320,421.58
General Office	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$2,277,999.00	\$1,897,452.37
General Office	General Revenue	Travel	\$58,500.00	\$55,420.21
General Office	General Revenue	Commodities	\$66,500.00	\$60,113.50
General Office	General Revenue	Printing	\$3,300.00	\$3,189.22
General Office	General Revenue	Equipment	\$303,100.00	\$298,180.87
General Office	General Revenue	EDP	\$3,155,754.00	\$3,144,915.89
General Office	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$265,600.00	\$129,378.49
General Office	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$28,200.00	\$24,916.56
General Office	General Revenue	Statewide Hospitalization	\$6,200.00	\$4,923.40
General Office	General Revenue	Independent Office of the Ombudsperson	\$410,000.00	\$204,231.63
General Office	General Revenue	Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports	\$62,800.00	\$25,928.42
General Office	General Revenue	Tort Claims	\$180,000.00	\$22,768.50
General Office	General Revenue	Sheriff Fee for Conveying Juveniles	\$2,600.00	\$1,964.60
General Office	General Revenue	Repairs and Maintenance	\$865,300.00	\$660,968.04
General Office	General Revenue	Refunds	\$600.00	\$0.00
General Office	DJJ Reimbursement	School District Programs	\$2,500,000.00	\$18,330.75
General Office	DJJ Reimbursement	Expenditures of Federal Programs	\$1,500,000.00	\$326,570.24
General Office	DJJ Reimbursement	Expenditures of Misc Programs	\$2,500,000.00	\$411.92
General Office	DOC Reimbursement	School District Programs	\$2,500,000.00	\$966,130.55
General Office	DOC Reimbursement	Expenditures of Federal Programs	\$1,500,000.00	\$670,325.40
General Office	DOC Reimbursement	Expenditures of Misc Programs	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,067.70
School District	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$5,372,600.00	\$5,251,741.66
School District	General Revenue	TRS Contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00
School District	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$401,500.00	\$383,261.63
School District	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$823,600.00	\$674,178.35
School District	General Revenue	Travel	\$4,300.00	\$2,664.89
School District	General Revenue	Commodities	\$20,700.00	\$11,416.83
School District	General Revenue	Printing	\$1,500.00	\$1,221.88
School District	General Revenue	Equipment	\$5,300.00	\$999.10
School District	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$33,200.00	\$17,084.46
School District	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
School District	General Revenue	High School Education Services	\$2,458,900.00	\$257,644.66
Community Services	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$6,197,600.00	\$6,143,816.30
Community Services	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$470,300.00	\$450,970.22
Community Services	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$14,857,610.00	\$14,315,231.03
Community Services	General Revenue	Travel	\$19,500.00	\$15,524.42
Community Services	General Revenue	Travel and Allowances	\$2,991.00	\$2,067.70
Community Services	General Revenue	Commodities	\$5,300.00	\$3,394.17
Community Services	General Revenue	Printing	\$2,300.00	\$2,276.40
Community Services	General Revenue	Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Services	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$190,100.00	\$130,595.74
Community Services	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$106,100.00	\$102,228.10
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$9,801,700.00	\$9,707,598.21
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Student, Member, Inmate Compensation	\$13,600.00	\$10,799.97
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$727,700.00	\$719,866.89
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$3,699,600.00	\$3,588,754.49
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Travel	\$4,500.00	\$4,388.96
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Commodities	\$369,200.00	\$336,579.58
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Printing	\$4,200.00	\$3,387.20
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Equipment	\$28,700.00	\$28,492.72
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$70,600.00	\$38,215.00
IYC Chicago	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$19,700.00	\$11,173.26



# BUDGET CONT.

Organization	Fund Name	Appropriation Name	Appropriation	Expenditure
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$17,801,300.00	\$17,797,186.39
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Student, Member, Inmate Compensation	\$10,900.00	\$7,850.09
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$1,288,900.00	\$1,286,686.24
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$3,335,900.00	\$3,029,152.98
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Travel	\$17,800.00	\$17,357.57
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Travel and Allowances	\$1,400.00	\$26.92
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Commodities	\$357,000.00	\$352,134.89
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Printing	\$7,400.00	\$7,163.20
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Equipment	\$48,700.00	\$16,973.60
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$73,900.00	\$55,242.03
IYC Harrisburg	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$29,900.00	\$29,071.52
IYC Lincoln	General Revenue	Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
IYC Lincoln	General Revenue	Operational Expenses	\$987,100.00	\$918,227.04
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$5,967,000.00	\$5,952,496.20
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Student, Member, Inmate Compensation	\$9,000.00	\$8,871.87
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$436,900.00	\$435,118.00
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$1,248,800.00	\$1,148,260.36
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Travel	\$6,100.00	\$5,917.02
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Travel and Allowances	\$500.00	\$0.00
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Commodities	\$195,300.00	\$194,084.37
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Printing	\$5,400.00	\$4,680.15
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Equipment	\$24,400.00	\$12,023.07
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$57,500.00	\$57,124.36
IYC Pere Marquette	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$16,200.00	\$13,740.55
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$15,162,100.00	\$15,021,215.78
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Student, Member, Inmate Compensation	\$13,700.00	\$6,224.64
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$1,262,000.00	\$1,092,513.57
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$6,047,800.00	\$5,835,550.47
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Travel	\$5,200.00	\$4,741.68
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Travel and Allowances	\$100.00	\$0.00
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Commodities	\$493,600.00	\$459,023.08
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Printing	\$16,100.00	\$13,902.99
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Equipment	\$92,000.00	\$81,131.59
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$134,800.00	\$82,347.73
PEACE Center	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$68,100.00	\$63,667.24
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Regular Positions	\$8,598,400.00	\$8,492,969.68
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Student, Member, Inmate Compensation	\$4,000.00	\$459.24
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Social Security/Medicare	\$744,100.00	\$627,518.43
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Contractual Services	\$2,487,600.00	\$2,458,385.65
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Travel	\$20,200.00	\$3,415.43
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Commodities	\$288,500.00	\$279,517.78
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Printing	\$5,700.00	\$2,489.35
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Equipment	\$43,400.00	\$17,431.41
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Telecommunications	\$72,300.00	\$72,274.20
IYC Warrenville	General Revenue	Op of Auto Equipment	\$29,000.00	\$13,136.56

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025



## Monarch Youth Center in Lincoln

In the spring of 2025, IDJJ anticipates the opening of the new Monarch Youth Center in Lincoln, Illinois. Monarch will allow youth from central Illinois who are in secure custody of the state to remain closer to their communities and families. This youth center is designed to be trauma-informed, therapeutic, rehabilitative, and dorm-like in order to reduce the harm of incarceration and implement best practices in juvenile justice. IDJJ has already begun the process of recruitment and interviewing staff for this new youth center.



*Monarch Youth Center construction Nov. 2024*

## Repurposing IYC Harrisburg for emerging adults

Senate Bill 426, passed in spring of 2024, allows 18-22 year-olds in IDOC custody to be transferred to IDJJ for the purpose of receiving high school educational services and emerging adult programming. In 2025, following the opening of the Monarch Youth Center in Lincoln, IDJJ will begin to repurpose and reprogram the Harrisburg facility to exclusively serve this new young adult population. The structure and programming of the facility will be modeled after IDJJ's PEACE Center at St. Charles, which opened as a repurposed IDJJ facility for emerging adults in early 2024.

## Final Words

IDJJ is grateful to the staff, families, advocates, volunteers, and community partners that have contributed to the accomplishments of the Department in 2024. The work of building youth skills, strengthening families, and promoting safe communities and positive youth outcomes cannot be achieved without the dedication of our many faithful partners. IDJJ looks forward to continued partnerships in 2025 that serve the best interests of justice-involved youth and families in Illinois.